

What is claimed is:

1. A control module for an electrical test probe comprising:

2 a control module body, wherein said control module body is configured to non-
 permanently mechanically couple to an electrical test probe;
4 a control device mechanically coupled to said control module body, and
 electrically isolated from a probe tip within said electrical test probe, wherein
6 said control device is capable of being non-permanently electrically coupled to
 a test instrument; and
8 a mode display mechanically coupled to said control module body and electrically
 coupled to said test instrument, said mode display visually representing a
10 configuration of said test instrument.

2. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

3. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

4. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

5. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 1 wherein;

2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

6. A control module for an electrical test probe comprising:

2 a control module body configured to non-permanently mechanically couple to an
electrical test probe body;
4 a control device, mechanically coupled with said control module body, and
electrically isolated from a probe tip of said electrical test probe;
6 a communication port electrically coupled to said control device, wherein said
communication port is capable of being non-permanently electrically coupled
8 to an external electrical test instrument; and
a mode display mechanically coupled to said control module body and electrically
10 coupled to said test instrument, visually representing a configuration of said
test instrument.

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7. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

8. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

9. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

10. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 6 wherein;

2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

11. A control module for an electrical test probe comprising:

2 a control module body configured to non-permanently mechanically couple to an
electrical test probe body;
4 a control device mechanically coupled to said control module body and electrically
isolated from a probe tip of said electrical test probe, wherein said control device,
6 when activated, activates a function of an external electrical test instrument;
a cable electrically coupled to said control module, mechanically coupled to said
8 control module body, and electrically coupled to said control device, and non-
permanently electrically and mechanically coupled to said test instrument; and
10 a mode display mechanically coupled to said control module body and electrically
coupled to said test instrument visually representing a configuration of said test
12 instrument.

12. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;
2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

13. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;
2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

14. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;
2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

15. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 11 wherein;
2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.

16. A control module for an electrical test probe comprising:

2 a control module body configured to non-permanently mechanically couple to an
electrical test probe body;
4 a control device, mechanically coupled with said control module body, and
electrically isolated from a probe tip of said electrical test probe;
6 a network interface electrically coupled to said control device, wherein said
network interface is capable of being non-permanently electrically coupled to
8 an external electrical test instrument; and
a mode display mechanically coupled to said control module body and electrically
10 coupled to said test instrument through said network interface, visually
representing a configuration of said test instrument.

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17. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 16 wherein;

2 said mode display is a liquid crystal display device.

18. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 16 wherein;

2 said mode display is a light emitting diode display device.

19. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 16 wherein;

2 said mode display is one or more light emitting diodes.

20. A control module for an electrical test probe as recited in claim 16 wherein;

2 said mode display is an electroluminescent display device.